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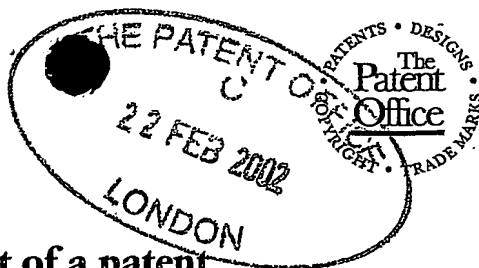
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25FEB02 E698292-1 D00022
P01/7700 0.00-0204189.5

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Cardiff Road
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NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

NIS/DC/37288

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0204189.5

22 FEB 2002

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

611574005

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

Molins PLC
11 Tanners Drive
Blakelands
Milton Keynes
Bucks MK14 5LU

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

GB

4. Title of the invention

Infusion Package.

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

fJ Cleveland

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

40-43 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1JQ

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

07368855001 ✓

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or

b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or

c) any named applicant is a corporate body.

See note (d))

Yes

Patents Form 1/77

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Description 5

Claim(s) 2

Abstract -

Drawing(s) 2 

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)

Request for substantive examination (*Patents Form 10/77*)

Any other documents
(please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

FJ Cleveland
Signature

Date

22 February 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

N I Smith 020 7405 5875

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Infusion Package

This invention relates to infusion packages and particularly, but not exclusively to infusion packages for coffee.

5 Convention infusion packages for tea or coffee comprise a porous walled container into which has been charged the coffee or tea. In use such containers are immersed in hot liquid such as water. It is known to suspend an open container such as a bag in the liquid and this has been achieved using a hanging string. In other arrangements a filter bag is provided with holding
10 members which enable the filter to be support from the rim of a container for the hot liquid. One such arrangement is described in E-A-0463181, but this arrangement can be difficult to use and manufacture. An infusion package which is simpler to manufacture is described in WO 01/51383, but it has been found particularly with coffee that such an arrangement does not produce a
15 satisfactory flavour in an acceptable time.

 According to the present invention there is provided an infusion package comprising a semi-porous open container for an infusible material and a support for supporting the container from the rim of a vessel, said support being capable of defining an opening through which liquid can be poured into
20 the container, said container comprising opposite side walls and divider means which divides the container into two compartments such that infusible material

in one compartment is separated from that in the other compartment by said divider means.

The divider means may comprise a gusset formed between the side walls. The gusset may be formed integrally with the side walls.

5 The support may comprise a pair of juxtaposed members which are sealed at opposite ends. The sealing of the two members may be by means of a heat seal.

10 The upper end portion of the container may be sandwiched between the juxtaposed members of the support and sealed thereto by a heat seal. The support means may be foldable so that it can lie alongside the container to act as a closure which closes the open container until it is ready for use.

The invention will be described now by way of example only with particular reference to the accompanying drawings. In the drawings:

15 Figure 1 is a perspective view of an infusion package for coffee according to one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of the infusion package;

Figure 3 is a schematic plan view of the infusion package in use, and

Figure 4 is a perspective view illustrating how the container is divided into two compartments.

20 Referring to the drawings an infusion package (10) comprises a container (12) and a support (14) for the container. The support comprises two

support members (14) by means of which the container can be mounted on a ring of a drinking vessel such as a mug or cup (15) as shown in Figure 3 of the drawings.

5 The support elements can each comprise of a strip of plastics coated board which are disposed opposite one another. Each support member is notched at one of its ends (16) to define a projection (18). The projection (18) lies in the plane of the support member and projects in the lengthwise direction of the member perpendicular to the ends (16).

10 At the end of the support members opposite the ends (16) there is a recess (22). The recesses (22) are aligned with and correspond in shape to the respective projections (18).

The support members are sealed to one another and to the container (12). These seals can be heat seals. The arrangement of the support members is such that the end (16) of one member is disposed opposite the end (20) of the other member so that the respective projections project in opposite directions. Each support member has a score line (24) disposed substantially midway between the ends (16) and extending perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of the member and parallel to the end (16, 20). The score lines enable the support members to be moved from a closed position (Figure 2) to an open position as shown in Figure 3 of the drawings.

15
20

The container is in the form of an open ended sack or bag (12). The

bag is formed from a web of porous heat sealable material which is folded to produce a cross section which is generally W-shaped as shown in Figures 2 and 4, the central part of the W forming a deep gusset. The long sides (30) of the W are sealed to each other by edge seals (32) which extend from the upper
5 to the lower end of the bag. The lower corners are rounded as shown at (35) in order to minimise drippage of liquid from the bag.

It will be seen from Figure 2 of the drawings that the central gusset (34) forms a divider means which divides the bag or container into two compartments (36, 38). Coffee in each of these compartments is separated by
10 the central gusset. It has been found that this type of arrangement creates a coffee drink of enhanced flavour in an acceptable time.

The upper open end of the bag (12) is sandwiched between the support members (14). The external surfaces of the bag at the open end are secured to the opposed inwardly facing surface of the support members in such a manner
15 that the bag can be left open at the upper end as shown in Figure 3. The support members are sealed to one another at their ends (16, 20) by heat seals which extend parallel to the score lines (24).

It will be appreciated that the support member (14) can be folded over so that it is disposed alongside the upper end of the bag (12). This has the
20 advantage that the size of any sachet containing the infusion package is reduced and the open end of the bag is effectively closed so that the coffee will

not spill out in transit.

In use the bag is removed from a sachet in which it has been stored and the support members are folded upwardly to bring the infusion package into the condition shown in Figure 1. A compressive force is applied to the opposite
5 ends of the support member causing the members to bow outwardly in the region of the score lines (24). As shown in Figure 3 the result is that the support members adopt a diamond configuration allowing the projections (18) to sit on the rim of a drinking vessel (15). In addition the bowing of the support members opens the upper end of the bag and provides an opening
10 through which water can be poured onto the coffee contained in the two compartments (36, 38) of the bag.

It will also be appreciated that the design allows the bag to be supported from the rim of the vessel so that the coffee containing portion sits in the liquid in the vessel once the water has been poured into the bag.

15 The support members (14) can be formed by the method described in WO 01/51383, but their formation is not in any way restricted to this method.

Claims

1. An infusion package comprising a semi-porous open container for an infusible material and a support for supporting the container from the rim of a vessel, said support being capable of defining an opening through which liquid can be poured into the container, said container comprising opposite side walls and divider means which divides the container into two compartments such that infusible material in one compartment is separated from that in the other compartment by said divider means.
2. An infusion package according to claim 1, wherein the divider means comprises a gusset formed between the side walls.
3. An infusion package according to claim 2, wherein the gusset is formed integrally with the side walls.
4. An infusion package according to any preceding claim, wherein the support comprises a pair of juxtaposed members which are sealed an opposite ends.
5. An infusion package according to claim 4, wherein the sealing of the

two members is by means of a heat seal.

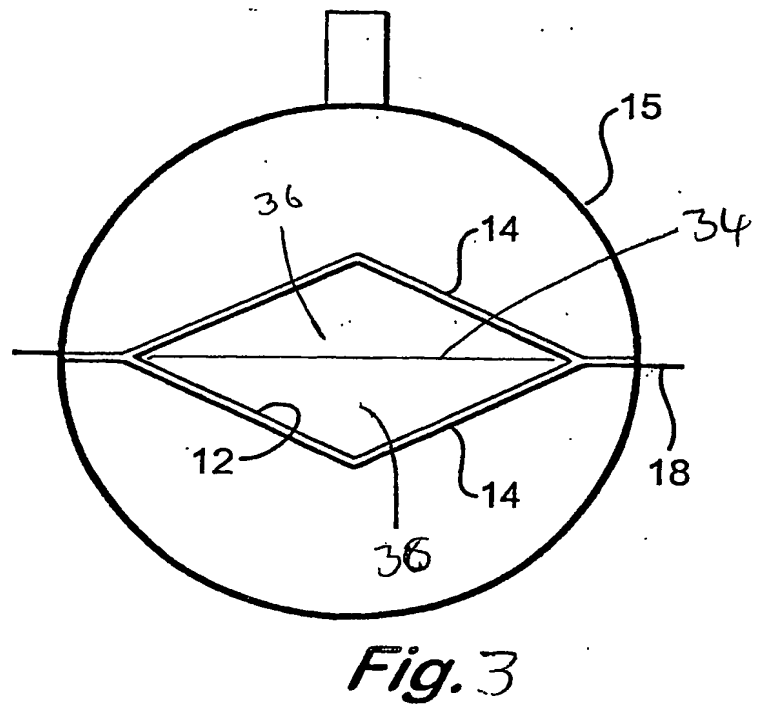
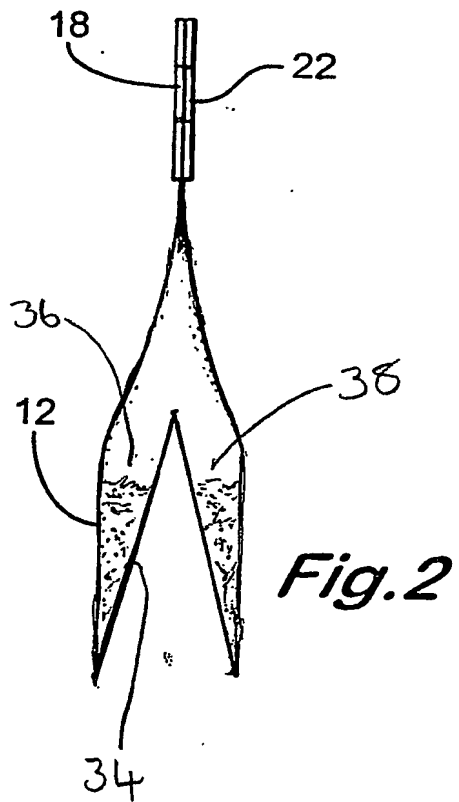
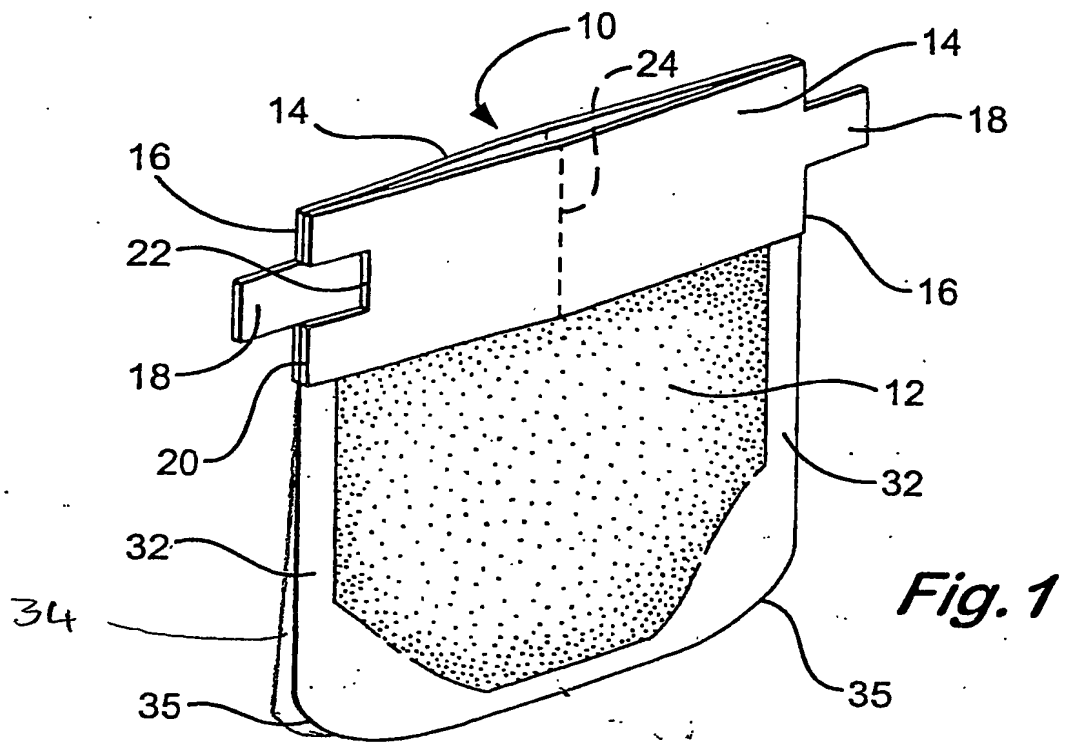
6. An infusion package according to claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the upper end portion of the container is sandwiched between the juxtaposed members of the support and sealed thereto by a heat seal.

7. An infusion package according to any preceding claim, wherein the support means is foldable so that it can lie alongside the container to act as a closure which closes the open container until it is ready for use.

10

8. An infusion package substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

1/2



2/2

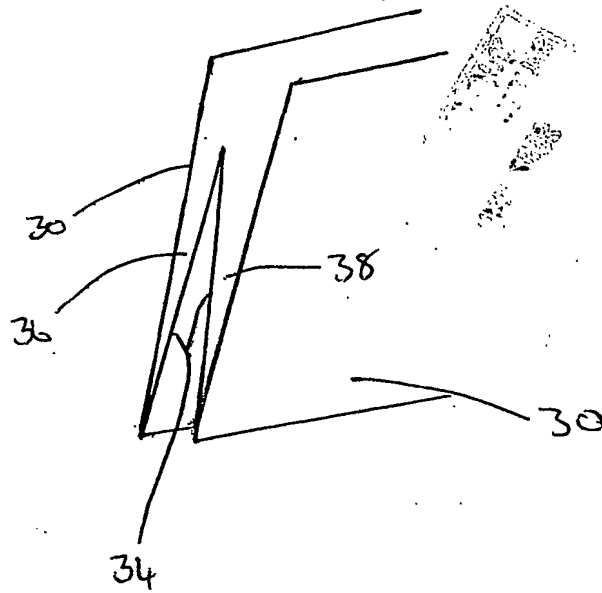


FIG 4

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